

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2817

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJ: DISTAFF SIDE: STRAWS AND SYMBOLS

REF: A. HONG KONG 11230; B. HONG KONG 2997

1. IN THE FILM OF THE NOVEMBER 3 MEETING BETWEEN POLITBURO MEMBER CHANG CHUN-CHIAO AND CAMBODIAN EMISSARY IENG SARY, MAO POEM ON THE LU SHAN "FAIRY CAVE" IS SHOWN HANGING CONSPICUOUSLY ABOVE THE CONFEREES (CANTON TV RELAY OF PEKING TV NOVEMBER 4). THE POEM, REPRODUCED IN MAO'S OWN SCRIPT, IS THE ONE SYMBOLICALLY PLAYED AT LEAST TWICE EARLIER THIS YEAR (REFTELS) AND WAS ORIGINALLY WRITTEN TO INSCRIBE A PHOTO TAKEN BY MADAME MAO UNDER THE PSEUDONYM LI CHIN. WHILE THE FILM DID NOT PROVIDE ANY CLUES TO IMMEDIATE SIGNIFICANCE, THE ASSOCIATION OF MAO AND CHIANG CHING IS CLEARLY IDENTIFIABLE TO CHINESE VIEWERS.

2. NCNA REPORTING THE RECEPTION FOR THE FRENCH DELEGATION TO PEKING ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT AIR SERVICE NAMED CHO
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LIN--WIFE OF VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING--IN THE LEAD POSITION

OF A GROUP IDENTIFIED AS "LEADING MEMBERS OF CHINESE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT, PEKING MUNICIPAL REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE, ETC. VICE PREMIER TENG WAS NOT PRESENT AND CHO LIN APPEARED AHEAD OF LI JEN-CHUN, RECENTLY THE RANKING ATTENDEE TO SEE OFF THE CORRESPONDING DELEGATION TO PARIS (HONG KONG'S A-280) AND VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE CHEN SHU-FU.

3. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THAT CHO LIN HAS APPEARED WITHOUT TENG SINCE HIS REHABILITATION LAST YEAR. THE RANKING POSITION MAY CONFIRM EARLIER SPECULATION THAT CHO LIN'S STATUS HAS BEEN UPGRADED (HONG KONG 9798). HOWEVER, EVEN IF SHE HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN A GOVERNMENT POSITION, ON THIS OCCASION SHE MAY HAVE BEEN SERVING AS A STAND-IN FOR HER HUSBAND. SHE WOULD THEN BE A COUNTERPART TO THE WIFE OF THE FRENCH PRIME MINISTER, MADAME CHIRAC, WHO WAS CO-LEADER OF THE FRENCH DELEGATION. THIS COULD BE FURTHER SIGN OF TENG'S LEADING POSITION AS EVENTUAL SUCCESSOR TO CHOU EN-LAI AS PREMIER.
CROSS

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